



LITTLE LEVER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

ON THE

HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF LITTLE LEVER

FOR THE YEAR

1943



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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

LITTLE LEVER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1943

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Urban District of Little Lever For the Year 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Little Lever Urban District Council

I have pleasure in submitting for your approval, my Report as Medical Officer of Health, on the health and sanitary conditions of Little Lever for the year ended December 31st 1943.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

The area of the township is 808 acres. The estimated population is 4,271, compared with 4,944 in the 1931 Census. There are 1,546 inhabited houses in the area, as against 1,523 in 1942, and 1,443 in the 1931 Census. This gives a rate of between three and four persons per house. The rateable value of the district is £20,444, and the sum raised by a penny rate is approximately £78. Social conditions, on the whole, are fairly good. Unemployment is practically nil. The district is mainly industrial in character, the chief industries being coal-mining, cotton-weaving, paper-making, ebonite-manufacturing, chemical manufacturing, and dairy farming.

Births

The number of live births registered in 1943 was 83, as against 64 in 1942. This figure is made up of 50 males (1 illegitimate) and 33 females (2 illegitimate). The birth-rate is 19.4 per 1,000 of population, compared with 14.7 in 1942, and a mean rate of 14.7 for the previous five years. The birth-rate for England and Wales in 1943 was 16.5

Still Births

The number of still-births in 1943 was 2 (1 male, 1 female) and is equal to a rate of 24 per 1,000 of total births, compared with 58 in 1942.

Deaths

The number of deaths from all causes in 1943 was 70 (35 males and 35 females). This is an increase of 3 on the figure for 1942. The death-rate for 1943 is 16.4 per 1,000 of population, as against 15.4 in 1942, and a mean rate of 15.6 for the previous five years. The death-rate for England and Wales in 1943 was 12.1.

Infantile Mortality

The number of deaths of children under one year in 1943 was 3, all males. This is a decrease of 2 compared with the figure for 1942 and gives a rate of 36 per 1,000 of live births, as against 78 in 1942, and a mean rate of 37 for the previous five years. The Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales in 1943 was 49.

Maternal Mortality

Once again, there were no Maternal deaths in 1943, thus giving a nil rate per 1,000 of total births, the same as in 1942, and a mean rate of 2.46 for the previous five years. The Maternal Mortality Rate for England and Wales in 1943 was 2.29.

Midwifery Services

There are no resident midwives in the district. Three midwives on the County Council list of midwives engaged by the County Council, reside in Farnworth and are available for the Little Lever area. Each one is readily accessible, as all three are on the telephone and have cars. There has been no difficulty in obtaining their help when required, and all have rendered conscientious service to the district. A certain number of cases was admitted to Townleys Hospital, Farnworth, but most of the confinements took place in the homes of the patients.

General Provision of Health Services for the District.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.	Situation	Provided by
Maternity and Child Welfare	Little Lever	Lines. County Council.
Tuberculosis	Farnworth	" "
School Clinics	Little Lever	" "
Venereal Diseases	Bolton	" "

Infectious Diseases

The following table gives an analysis of the cases of Infectious Disease notified during 1943:-

Disease	Total Cases	Males	Females	Sent to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	6	3	3	2	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	6	Nil	6	6	1	1
Measles	10	4	6	Nil	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	41	16	25	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	7	3	4	Nil	Nil	3
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	2	Nil	2	Nil	Nil
Totals	72	28	44	10	1	4

Tuberculosis

New Cases and Mortality during 1943.

Age Periods Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-resp.		Respiratory		Non-resp.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 to 1								
1 to 5								
5 to 10				2				
10 to 15								
15 to 20								
20 to 25								
25 to 35			1					
35 to 45								
45 to 55		1						
55 to 65					2			
65 and up.								
TOTALS	0	1	1	2	2	0	0	0

The death-rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System in 1943 was 0.47 per 1,000 of population, as against 0.69 in 1942, and a mean rate of 0.46 for the previous five years.

Causes of Death

- 3 -

The following table shows the deaths from all causes in 1943:-

Case of Death	Males	Females	Total
Diphtheria		1	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2		2
Influenza	1		1
Cancer of Mouth and Desophagus	1		1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	3	4
Cancer of Breast		1	1
Cancer of all other sites	5	2	7
Diabetes		3	3
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesious	5	2	7
Heart Disease	6	7	13
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1		1
Bronchitis	2	3	5
Pneumonia	1	2	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	2		2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum		1	1
Other Digestive Diseases	1		1
Nephritis		4	4
Premature Birth	2		2
Congenital Malformation etc.		1	1
Suicide	1		1
Other Violent Causes	1		1
All other Causes	3	5	8
TOTALS	35	35	70

Cancer and Malignant Diseases

There were 13 deaths from Cancer and Malignant Disease in 1943, compared with 12 in 1942. This gives a death-rate of 3.04 per 1,000 of population, as against 2.76 in 1942, and a mean rate of 2.07 for the previous five years.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

No cases of this disease were notified during 1943.

District Nursing Association

The District Nursing Association employs one Nurse, and is affiliated to the County Nursing Association. The Members of the Committee have continued to give unstinted service to this worthy object, and with the generous and willing support of the general public, have maintained the sound financial position of the Association. The Nurse, as in previous years, has given really devoted service to the community, and has carried out her duties in an exemplary manner.

Hospital Accommodation

The Council have an agreement with the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board for the reception and treatment of cases of Infectious Diseases. Beds are available as required, at the following Institutions:-

Small-Pox Hospital, Ainsworth - for cases of Small-Pox.

Florence Nightingale Hospital, Bury - for other Infectious diseases

Both Hospitals are controlled by the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board, and the retaining fees payable by the Council are:-

Small-Pox	-	£20 per annum
Other Diseases	-	£25 per annum

An Ambulance is provided by the Joint Board for the conveyance to the Hospitals, of patients suffering from Infectious diseases.

Voluntary Hospitals Arrangements

The Council subscribe the following amounts:-

Bolton Royal Infirmary	-	£10.10. 0d per annum
Manchester and Salford Medical Charities	-	£30. 0. 0d per annum
Little Lever District Nursing Association	-	£13.13. 0d per annum

The Council have an agreement with the Borough of Farnworth, whereby the latter provide an Ambulance service for conveying patients from the district to the various hospitals.

Adoptive Acts in Force

Public Health Acts (Amendment Act) 1890. Part 4
Public Health Acts (Amendment Act) 1907. Parts 2 and 4
Public Health Acts 1925. Part 2, except sections 22 and 25

Sanitary Accommodation

The types of Sanitary Accommodation, with the numbers of each type at the end of 1943, were as follows:-

Privy Middens	-	17
Closets attached to these Middens	-	24
Pail Closets	-	4
Waste Water Closets	-	99
Fresh Water Closets	-	1,450
Movable Ashbins for Refuse	-	1,443
Dry Ashpits (excluding Middens)	-	48
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System	-	1,511

Owing to the indefinite postponement of all Slum Clearance Schemes, there were no conversions of privy middens during 1943.

Sanitary Inspections

The number of premises visited during 1943, for the purpose of Sanitary Inspections, was 63, and the number of nuisances discovered was 112. The number of nuisances abated during the year was 57. Informal notices to the number of 33 were issued during the year, but no statutory notices were served and no legal proceedings were taken.

Bakehouses, Dairies and Cowsheds have been periodically inspected during the year, and have been found to be in a reasonable condition. There are 8 dairy farms in the area, with approximately 136 cows between them. Ten samples of milk were taken during the year. Of these, 9 were satisfactory and one was unsatisfactory. Suitable action was taken in this case.

Factories and workshops have also been inspected from time to time, and found to be in a satisfactory state.

Food shops have been inspected during the year, but no action has been necessary.

Water Supply

The water supply is from the Irwell Valley Water Board's Mains and is constant. All houses are directly connected, the number of houses with piped supplies being 1,511. No extensions were carried out during 1943.

Sewage Disposal

Sewage disposal was quite satisfactory during 1943. The sewage is treated by settlement tanks and percolating filters. No extensions were carried out during the year, but one filter bed was rebuilt. Samples of the effluent have been periodically tested by the Lancashire Rivers Board Inspectors, and have been pronounced satisfactory. One area, Leadbeater Fold, is without an efficient drainage system, but as it is scheduled under a Clearance Order, it will be dealt with as soon as conditions allow.

The flushing of sewers and cleaning of manholes has been done periodically.

The system of scavenging and removing house refuse has worked efficiently during the year.

Weekly collections of house refuse and fortnightly collections from privy closets are made by the Council's wagon, which is covered. The refuse is disposed of by tipping on waste land.

Smoke Abatement

The Council are members of the Manchester Regional Smoke Abatement Committee. The time limit for the emission of black smoke is two minutes per hour. Observations, owing to War conditions, have not been practicable, but, no serious infringements occurred and no legal proceedings were necessary.

Housing.

Owing to War restrictions, no new houses were built during 1943.

Number of Houses owned by the Local Authority

1. Under 1919 Scheme	113
2. Under Housing Act 1923	11
3. Under Housing Act 1924	122
4. Erected during 1936	30
5. Erected during 1937	38
6. Erected during 1938	34
Total	348

Housing Conditions

Housing conditions are fairly good, and the general standard of housing satisfactory. There are at least 200 houses which fall below the general standard. The chief defects found are dampness, low ceilings, old age, absence of bathrooms and faulty position of houses in relation to roads and other property. Many houses have not sufficient access to sunlight, and appear to have been erected without any regard to the welfare of the tenants, and with no idea of ordered layout of the district. There is no overcrowding within the strict letter of the regulations, but there are many families in the district to whom an extra bedroom would be of inestimable benefit. A housing scheme of 26 houses was planned for 1939 with the intention of re-housing tenants whose houses had been included in Clearance Areas. The War, however, prevented this scheme from going on, and as a result, many condemned houses still have tenants in them and are now in a dreadful state.

Town Planning

The Council are members of the Bolton and District Regional Planning Committee, and representatives from the Council are members of the Committee. These representatives attend the meetings and report back to the Council, who, as a result, endeavour always to work in harmony with the Planning Committee.

Disinfection

The number of houses disinfected after infectious diseases was 12. The method used is Formic Aldehyde in the sealed room of the house. In addition, 3 houses were sprayed for the eradication of bed bugs.

Public Health Laboratory

Only two swabs from suspected cases of Diphtheria were sent for examination to the Public Health Laboratory, York Place, Manchester, during 1943. Both proved to be negative.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Considerable progress in the immunising of children was made during 1943. The total number immunised was 269, which compares very favourably with the figure of 106 during 1942. Of this number (269) 109 were pre-school children, 159 were school children, and one was an adult. Of the six cases of Diphtheria notified during 1943, two had previously been immunised, but the one fatal case had not been immunised. Immunisations are done by the Medical Practitioners in the district, the prophylactic used being Alum Precipitated Toxoid supplied by the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester. It is estimated that 50.8% of the pre-school children, and 69% of the school children have now been immunised. There is still a fair amount of apathy and ignorance on the part of many parents, but steps are periodically taken to persuade more parents to take advantage of the local scheme.

General Observations

The general health of the district during 1943 was reasonably good. The birth-rate showed a considerable increase and was well above the rate for England and Wales, but the death rate compares very unfavourably with that for England and Wales.

There was a small epidemic of Whooping Cough during the year, 41 cases being notified. All except one were in the 1 to 10 years of age group, but there were no serious cases and no complications ensued. The number of notifications of Infectious Diseases was considerably less than in 1942.

No improvements in sanitation or in housing conditions can be recorded for 1943, though this is not to say that improvements are not greatly needed. The district is very much in need of more houses of the type built in past years by the Local Authority, that is, modern houses, with modern sanitary conveniences, built in an orderly, planned layout, in pleasing surroundings, with the fullest possible access to the sunlight and fresh air. Many of the older houses which, before the War, were considered to be "not too bad", will assuredly before long, be considered as awful excrescences on the face of the earth and will merit a Clearance Order. Our pre-War plans for Slum Clearance are even now out of date, and will need to be considerably revised. One hopes that the time is not far distant when the rows of four-roomed houses, built on either side of a narrow street, to which sunlight hardly ever penetrates, and lacking baths and hot water systems, will be put down as unfit for human habitation, and will be dealt with accordingly. Such squalid dwellings can surely have no place in an enlightened Britain which aims at improving the nation's health and standard of living.

The conclusion of four years of War still does not appear to have had any noticeable deleterious effect on the health of the district. The schools have maintained their usual good figures of attendance, and under-nourishment seems conspicuous by its absence. Although the number of deaths was slightly higher than in 1942, almost 50% were of persons 65 years of age or over, and once again, heart disease and cancer took a greater toll of life than any other cause of death.

The Clinics and Treatment Centres provided by the County Council have again been of inestimable value and have been greatly appreciated by the community.

The recreational facilities provided by the Local Authority in the Bowling Green and Playing Field have been extremely popular and have fully justified the expense and labour they have incurred. It is to be hoped that as soon as conditions permit, the facilities for healthy recreation will be extended in order to provide tennis courts, football and cricket pitches for the benefit of the adolescent section of the district.

September 2nd 1944

W. MOTTERSHEAD. M.B., Ch.B.

Medical Officer of Health.

